Cutting SNAP will make poverty worse

By: [YOUR NAME]

The U.S. Census Bureau just released new data showing that one in eight of us lives in poverty. *One in eight.* This should be unacceptable in the United States in 2018.

Elected leaders should be doing everything they can to make sure that *all* of us can care for our families and thrive. And that starts this month with protecting SNAP, the program we used to call “food stamps.”

Why SNAP? Because this federal program helps more than 40 million people in this country put food on the table. According to the new Census data, it helped 3.4 million people get above the poverty in 2017. But right now, the future of SNAP is in question. In June, the House passed a farm bill that would take away SNAP benefits from one million households, even those with school-age kids. At the same time, the bill would institute draconian new requirements for adults struggling to find work and make the “cliff effect” even worse, effectively penalizing families for earning just a little bit more.

The fact is, most able-bodied adults on SNAP *already work* and a full two-thirds of recipients are children, seniors, and people with disabilities. We know that [kids](https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-works-for-americas-children) who have enough to eat are healthier, do better in school, and have improved economic outcomes as adults. Here in [your state], SNAP reached [number] residents, or [percentage] of the total population in 2017. [FACT SHEETS WITH LOCAL INFO FOUND [HERE](https://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets)].

[Add your own personal experience with SNAP, your insights on the program, or other local context here]

Thankfully, the Senate understands how vital SNAP is for families and kids across the country and passed a bipartisan farm bill that protects it. That’s great news, but now the Senate and the House are negotiating a final farm bill. Whether or not they protect SNAP is entirely up to our members of Congress.

For decades, members of Congress have come together in a bipartisan way, committed to the idea that no one in this country should go to bed hungry. We need to make sure that commitment continues. As the new Census data shows, we still have a lot of work to do to make good on that promise – we can’t afford a giant step backwards.

Making harmful changes and cuts to SNAP won’t help anyone find work or move out of poverty – it will just make people hungry. I hope I can count on [your members of Congress] to stand up for families and kids here in [your state] and protect SNAP.